THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) Review/ updation of labour laws is an ongoing process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs. Efforts are made to make the required changes in the labour laws by the Government after detailed consultations with the social partners with a view to harmonize the interests of all stakeholders.

Projects awaiting sanction by CAPART

381. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that more than 800 project sent by NGOs in Tamil Nadu to Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) have been pending sanction for a long time;

(b)if so, the details of the projects proposals and the reasons therefor; and

(c)when decision is likely to be taken on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) 120 project proposals sent by NGOs from Tamilnadu are pending for sanction in CAPART as on 13.2.2006. The details of these project proposals together with the reasons for pendency are indicated in the Annexure See Appendix 207, Annexure No. 1. Decision on these pending projects will be taken after completion of required formalities.

Lowering of interest rates for SHGs.

382. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether his Ministry approached sometime back the Ministry of Finance to lower the interest rates for the Self-Help Groups of the poor engaged in the activities of economic upliftment;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c)The Finance Ministry's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Ministry of Finance was informed that the present rate of 10-12% charged on loans advanced to the Self-Help Groups under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yozana (SGSY) is higher. As the scheme specifically targets the BPL population in rural areas, Ministry of Finance was requested to look into the matter and take appropriate initiative to peg the interest rate within a band of 4-6%.

(c) Ministry of Finance informed that the interest rate regime has been deregulated and the individual banks are free to fix a rate of interest on their lending depending on the cost of the funds and the risks involved in such lending. It also informed that the Government on its part has been regularly advising the Banks to keep the interest as low as 9%for rural and agricultural loans amounts up to Rs. 50,000/-. Ministry of Finance have also highlighted the fact that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines provide that the loans up to Rs. 2,00,000/-should not be above Benchmark Prime Lending Rate and NABARD extends refinance to Banks at the rate of 5.5% for loans up to Rs. 50,000/- and 6.25% for loans above Rs. 50,000/- under SGSY.

National Land Records Development Mission

383. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up National Land Records Development Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) Process to set up a Mission to look after computerization of land records and integrate them